SI. No.	District	Physical status No. of VPT's provided in 2005-06
5.	East Godavari	7
6.	Guntur	-
7.	Karimnagar	5
8.	Khammam	10
9.	Krishna	2
10.	Kurnool	1
11.	Mahaboobnagar	23.
12.	Medak	12
13.	Nalgonda	18
14.	Nellore	27*
15.	Niziamabad	23
16.	Prakasam	44
17.	Rangareddy	Nil
18.	Srikakulam	25
19.	Visakhapatnam	22
20.	Vizianagaram	16
21.	Warangal	47
22.	West Godavari	1
	TOTAL Andhra Pradesh*	415

* includes those villages covered before 2005-06 but forms part of State's total Bharat Nirman target of 1074 villages

Increase in the Number of BPL people

1725. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons living below poverty lines has been increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the criteria adopted for declaring person/family living below poverty line;

(d) whether criteria is uniform for all State/UTs; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The latest available data from such surveys in from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000. The next estimates of poverty will be based on the 61st round of NSSO, (July 2004 to June 2005), the results of which have not been published. The percentage of people living below the poverty line using data from the quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation on household consumption expenditure are given below in the table:

Percentage and Number of Poor

year	Poverty Ratio(%)	Number of Poor (million)
1973-74	54.9	321.3
1977-78	51.3	328.9
1983	44.5	322.9
1987-88	38.9	307.1
1993-94	36.0	320.3
1999-2000	26.1	260.2

It is observed from the above table that the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line at national level has come down from 54.9 percentage of points to 26.1 percentage of points, and, from 321.3 million to 260.2 million people (in absolute numbers) respectively.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie

intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of nonfood expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line.

The Planning Commission follows a uniform criterion of poverty across all the States and Union Territories. The present criterion used by the Planning Commission is based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee). As per this methodology, the poverty line for the states reflect the state-specific prices for the basket of goods and service comprising the poverty line. The state-specific poverty lines for 1999-2000 is given in the Statement.

Statement

State-Specific Poverty Lines in 1999-2000

(Rs. per capita per month)

No.	State	Rural	Urban
1	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.40
2	Assam	365.43	343.99
3	Bihar	333.07	379.78
4	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
5	Haryana	362.81	420.20
6	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.20
7	Karnataka	309.59	511.44
8	Kerala	374.79	477.06
9	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
10	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
11	Orissa	323.92	473.12
12	Punjab	362.68	388.15
13	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
14	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.60

No.	State	Rural	Urban
15	Uttar Pradesh	336.88	416.29
16	West Bengal	350.17	409.22
17	Delhi	362.68	505.45
	All lndia#	327.56	454.11

The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India level is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.

NH Programme in Karnataka

1726. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Golden Quadrilateral and National Highway programme in Karnataka; and

(b) the expected date of completion of current phase of the Golden Quadrilateral work in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Out of total length of 624 km. covered under Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), 562 km. have already been completed and remaining 62 km. are under implementation. These are expected to be completed by December, 2006 except for Chitradurga bypass, where earlier contract was terminated. This bypass is now targeted to be completed by June, 2008.

As regards other National Highway works, presently 151 works are in progress. These are expected to be completed by March, 2008.

Upgradation of non-major ports

1727. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive plan has been formulated to upgrade over 100 non-major ports in the country to handle